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diversion. There was no call here for able employment of style and no opportunity for elevated expression; the musical setting hindered any attempt at noble creation.

The interest, then, which would centre around a work of this sort must be excited by its connection with national life and social evolution, as an index to the trend of popular inclination and the intellectual cast. Regarded in this light it assumes a rational relation to other forms of expression in which a nation records its changing taste and growing culture, but its proper ratio to the general concrete disclosure of the spirit of the time ought to be diligently guarded. If however by chance or misfortune, some single phenomenon becomes unduly prominent in the mind of a writer, the proportion is disturbed and the thing itself assumes a distorted shape. So with this treatise before us.

After the glamour of the author's evident admiration for his subject has been lifted, and the innumerable details brushed aside, we may resolve the matter into the following residuum.

Favart was an amiable, practical man, with feeble mental independence, possessing no small dramatic ability, and a happy knack at turning a couplet to suit a given tune. Beyond this, as far as I can see, he did not go—could not go, as we see by his failures to please in the latter part of his life. He was not the man to inaugurate a new thing; he took a special inheritance, and employed it to the best advantage, cleverly, but with little originality and with no literary feeling. The gifts entrusted to him he used to good purpose, but they were only the one talent.

In view of the rather meagre results deduced from the painstaking research of M. Font, we are constrained to wish that the learned Doctor had turned his attention to a more fruitful field, and expended his labor on some more inspiring subject.

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OLD ENGLISH.

Die Syntax in den Werken Alfreds des Grossen, von Dr. J. Ernst Wülfing. Erster Teil. Bonn: P. Hanstein, 1894. 8vo, xxix, 491 pp.

SINCE the year 1878, there has been issuing from the German universities an almost steady flow of monographs dealing with questions of Old-English Syntax. Before that date a few isolated papers in this field had seen the light, of which, perhaps, the most important was Lichtenheld's article, "Das Schwache Adjectiv im Angelsächsischen," published in Haupt's *Zeitschrift* for 1873. But these were few, and far between: since the date mentioned, more than fifty dissertations and important articles have appeared, and in the past decade no year has seen the publication of less than three. The larger number of these have emanated from Leipzig, which has sent forth twenty dissertations, under the stimulus of Wülcker and Sievers. Our own country has produced three, all of a high grade of excellence, and all prepared at Johns Hopkins under the direction of Prof. Bright. The American dissertations are marked by a breadth of view, a sanity of judgment, and a strong individuality of treatment, quite rare in similar German productions.

But, steady as this flow has been, and valuable as we may consider its results, the past twenty-five years have brought us little nearer to the complete treatise on Old-English Syntax which has been so much longed for. Koch and Mätzner, in their general grammars, give fairly adequate consideration to the salient points of the subject, but the matter is so scattered about in their volumes as not to be easily accessible; moreover, their knowledge of the literature was not exhaustive, and their statements are liable to contradiction by the discovery of a few non-conforming cases, in some text with which they were not familiar. There are black swans in almost every field of research. Occasional rare usages are not noticed by them (though a few have been added by Zupitza, in the second edition of Koch). March's grammar, while superior to these German works in point of convenience and fulness, has its value impaired by the author's failure to regard Anglo-Saxon as a stage of the English language, and by his familiarity with Latin grammar, which influenced his classification. All these books are now at least a quarter of a century old; during this period, the science has made large advances

in respect of both method and results. Dr. Kellner's excellent *Historical Outlines* (1892), while presenting, in the light of recent investigation, much that is of interest, fails to cover the whole field in a systematic way: it is rather a note-book, dealing mainly with the unusual and idiomatic in our language, than a complete treatise on English Syntax.

The subject of this review is the first published attempt at an exhaustive examination of the syntax of any considerable number of related Old-English texts. In 1888, there appeared at Bonn a "Darstellung der Syntax in König Alfred's Uebersetzung von Gregor's des Grossen *Cura Pastoralis*: Erste Hälfte," a dissertation, by J. Ernst Wülfig, in the introduction to which the author promised to publish at an early date the rest of his material on the *Cura Pastoralis*, together with similar facts on the syntax of Alfred's other writings (*Bede*, *Orosius*, and *Boethius*). The dissertation showed ability, and the promise was a welcome sound. In August, 1894, the first half of the completed work appeared, and the second half, for which the material is already collected, will, it is to be hoped, soon follow.

The long delay of six years has been turned to good account by Dr. Wülfig: he has extended his investigation to all the prose writings attributed to Alfred, so that his work gives a complete view of the syntax of Alfred's Laws and his preface to Werfrith's rendering of Gregory's *Dialogues*, and that of the translations of Augustine's *Soliloquies* and the first fifty *Psalms*, as well as of the four greater works mentioned above, a body of Old-English prose—and to the prose we must turn first for the facts of syntax—rivalled in bulk and importance only by the writings of Ælfric.

In his introduction, Wülfig gives his reasons for undertaking this work, and discusses briefly the authenticity of the various writings attributed to Alfred, and other questions connected with their composition.

An excellent table of contents follows, giving a detailed classification of the subject-matter of the book, with the section or group of sections devoted to each topic or sub-topic, and the pages on which it is to be found. A

careful examination of this table would well repay any student, especially if he is about publishing; I have seldom, if ever, seen a better in a work of this sort. It is made with as great pains as if it alone had been an end; it is a careful, detailed report of an investigation into the contents of the book. And this is only a sample of what is everywhere prominent, not only here but in the author's many critical utterances in *Englische Studien*: his high appreciation of matters of mechanical detail in book-making; almost nothing which could conduce to render his work serviceable has been neglected. This is a trait which is none too common among German scholars. To mention two other points: the section-numbers are carried along at the top of every page, and the beginning of each new section is noted in the margin. Best of all, he makes a judicious use of various fonts of type, employing italics for German, Roman type for all quotations (of Old English, Latin or English), and heavy-faced type, a little larger than 'Clarendon,' for head-words, in lists of verbs, etc., and for the names of Alfred's works. This gives the book an 'Uebersichtlichkeit' which is rare, even among the people from whom we are compelled to borrow the word.

The table of contents is followed by a list of texts and translations of Alfred's writings, and a very good bibliography of works bearing on Old-English Syntax completes the introductory matter. This, while not exhaustive, is far better and fuller than of any other known to me.

The book deals with the Syntax of the Noun, Article, Adjective, Numeral and Pronoun. The first 275 pages are occupied with the treatment of the six cases of nouns; this does not include their use after prepositions, but consists largely of an exhaustive account of their employment after verbs.

There are occasional slight inconsistencies in the arrangement of the matter, as when, for instance, after giving eighteen short sections to verbs which take the genitive and dative, or genitive and accusative, which he has classified on the same lines as those which take the genitive only, he masses all the verbs followed by the dative and accusative

tive, which are more than twice as numerous as the classes just mentioned, in one large section, arranging them alphabetically. The great army of verbs with the accusative, filling nearly one hundred and eighteen pages, are arranged alphabetically, and divided into twenty-two sections, one for each initial letter; the reader wonders just what, in a book where every device of arrangement has its purpose, was the object of this arbitrary division.

If Wülfing regards the adnominal use of the genitive as the original one, he does not show it by his arrangement, in which this construction is treated *after* the same case with adjectives, comparatives and verbs; in fact, he seems to have made little attempt to place phenomena in the order of their probable development. And this brings me to the greatest defect of the book,—the absence of philosophical treatment of the facts of syntax.

A recent critic says, 'there is no doubt that the German plan of starting theories, right or wrong, and of considering him a poor and unprofitable scholar who has no new theories to offer, has been the cause of a great advance in scholarship.' But one of Wülfing's marked characteristics is his extreme caution. He is slow to make any generalizations or state any theories of his own. At the head of each main section, he gives a bibliography of the special topic to be considered, and refers the reader to the works there cited for all discussion of the nature and history of the phenomena under view. Besides the monographs, he continually cites the sections of Grimm and Erdmann (*Syntax der Sprache Otfrids*) for matter of this sort; but we look in vain for a definite statement of his allegiance to any one of these authorities. He quotes Erdmann most often, but even him he does not follow consistently, as on page 11, where he says that the genitive after verbs is often the representative of other cases. He does not commit himself at all in these general matters; indeed, he seems to care little about them, and to say, 'If you want theory or explanation, you will find it in such and such a place; my only interest is in collecting facts.' Except in a few rare instances, his statements are of the briefest; as, 'The adverbial geni-

tive denotes the time, place or manner of an action,' reminding us of the 'rules of Syntax' in an old school-grammar of Latin. This confinement of the view to the phenomena sometimes leads to rather amusing results, as where he introduces section after section with the statement, 'This is a real, or pure, or genuine, or actual dative,' while leaving us entirely in the dark in regard to his views on the nature of that case. Perhaps Wülfing agrees with the view expressed by Behaghel, in 1876 (*Die Modi im Heliand*), that we can arrive at no satisfactory explanations of syntactical facts, except on the basis of a general Germanic syntax, for which immense collections will be required; however, his work would be much more useful to all but specialists in this field, if he gave an outline of the theories most widely accepted, or at least a distinct statement of the authority with whose views the writer agrees.

But, though we may wish he had been a little less cautious in this regard, we cannot but be grateful for the same spirit of caution and exactness as exhibited in other directions. He is very careful not to make or accept any deductions based on ambiguous forms, or to make statements, except of fact, for which he has not authorities, and of these he cites as many as possible; as, for instance, on pp. 420 f., where he gives the opinions of thirteen men on the ellipsis of the relative pronoun, and concludes by saying that he does not and cannot know whether such a thing exists, until all the material is obtained. He thinks there may be three cases in Alfred (*Bede* 491, 22; *Boethius* 290, 9; *Soliloquies* 182, 31). On pp. 416 f., he quotes eighteen men on *pāra pe* with a singular verb; here he violates his customary neutrality, and gives his own opinion in the matter: that *pāra* originally belonged to the principal clause, and served to remove obscurity by repeating, immediately before the relative pronoun, the idea on which that pronoun was dependent. Gradually the force of this *pāra* of repetition ceased to be felt, and it became connected with *pe* in a merely formal way, and so used even when there was nothing to repeat. Finally, as a result of this loss of meaning, the plural of the verb became singular, whenever the idea to which

(*pāra*) *þe* related was singular. He frequently refers to Grein, Sievers, and Cosijn, concerning matters of form. In one place (p. 40) he quotes a private note from Professor Toller.

His original contributions to the book (aside from the occasional digressions, which are sometimes rather diverting; as, where he spends two pages (73 f.) in proving to an unbeliever that Alfred knew Latin, and was a good translator) consist largely of corrections of the statements and views of previous writers. Thus, he gives new meanings for words not found in Bosworth-Toller (as, *æmanne*, p. 3); corrects the interpretations and punctuations of the editors and translators (as, p. 7 § 6 a; p. 417 top); and suggests frequent emendations of the text, not always wisely; as, when (p. 22) he proposes to change *ys* (*Soliloquies* 169, 30) to *hys*, and treat this as a genitive after *lucuman*, which everywhere else takes a dative, as do all the other forty-seven verbs compounded with *tō-*. He frequently quotes usages in other texts, on the authority of the dissertation-makers, to support his readings; as, at the foot of p. 7.

It is, however, primarily as a collector of facts that Wülfing has chosen to come before the world, and in this capacity he is well-nigh ideal. He claims—and the claim seems to be well founded—that his lists of the occurrences of all but the most simple constructions are exhaustive, and a large number of examples are given in full; at least one instance of every construction is so given. Of some of the more common and unchanging usages; as, the nominative case of subject, or the accusative after verbs like *habban*, he gives only a few examples, and denotes the relative frequency of the form by annexing one or more *u. s. w.*'s.

No pains are spared to make this body of facts available to the student. Copious and exact cross-references are given; uncommon or unique usages are mentioned as such; under each construction, there follows a list of the other forms for expressing the same relation or idea, with reference, to the sections where they are treated in full; and a careful distinction is made between varying uses of the same verb with different meanings (as *scūfan*, p. 23). At the end of the book are two

very useful tables (the familiar 'Rektion' of the dissertations), in one of which are found the adjectives used by Alfred with a case after them, in the other, the verbs. These are arranged alphabetically, and the case or cases which follow them, are denoted by their initial letters, with references to the sections where they are discussed. When we consider that half a page or more is often consumed in the account of a single word in the text (as, *wyrðe* with the genitive, *bebōdan* with the dative, *begangan* with the accusative), the value of these tables becomes more apparent. In fact, the amount of space devoted to the treatment of these cases, especially the one hundred and eighteen pages given to the accusative after the many transitive verbs, a construction which is in most instances so familiar and simple as to need only the merest mention, suggests that, in common with so many of his countrymen, Dr. Wülfing perhaps lacks that sense of proportion which alone can form a bundle of dry facts into a work of art.

Wherever possible, Wülfing has used the work already done by other scholars. He seems to have a high admiration for Dr. Callaway's dissertation on the Absolute Participle. He devotes three pages (145-148) to a detailed synopsis of its contents, section by section, an honor which he grants to no other monograph. He makes some comments, and adds four cases (*Bede* 543, 1; 570, 7; 601, 20; preface to *Dialogues*, 68).

He bases his treatment of the article on Philipsen and Hüllweck, with some slight additions, as the inclusion of *sum*, under the indefinite article. His investigation of the adjective is confined to a comparison of the uses of the strong and weak forms, along the lines first drawn by Lichtenheld. He builds on Bock in discussing the pronoun, and on Bock and Fricke for the numeral.

His treatment of the use of the singular and plural of substantives (pp. 275 ff.) is of interest. Here he discusses *neofon* and *heofonas*, and the use of *brēost*, *hēafod*, *meolc*, and other words, in the plural, with singular meaning.

He treats the important question of word-position, in his various sections (as, that of the attributive genitive, pp. 49 ff.); this branch of

syntax has been sadly neglected by previous writers. The most important contribution to our knowledge of the subject is Dr. C. Alphonso Smith's Johns Hopkins dissertation, published in 1893, with which Wülfing seems to be unacquainted.

The book, as will be seen, has some faults, one of which, the absence of general philosophical statements regarding the history and nature of the phenomena, will prevent its taking its place, even temporarily, as a handbook of Old-English Syntax for general use. But, as a treasury of syntactical facts, a storehouse of excellently classified examples, it is deserving of the highest praise. No work at all comparable to it in value, making use, as it does, of the often inaccessible results obtained by other scholars during the past twenty-five years, has yet appeared. Dr. Wülfing's patience and care, and the wisdom shown in making his book serviceable by mechanical devices, must win for him the thanks of students of Old English everywhere; and all must recognize 'The Syntax in the Works of Alfred the Great,' as the most important contribution, as regards both bulk and thoroughness, yet made towards the general treatise of the future, for which a hand is yet to be found.

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HISTORY OF THE NOVEL.

A History of the Novel Previous to the Seventeenth Century. By F. M. WARREN, Professor in Adelbert College of Western Reserve University. Cloth, 8vo, 361 pp. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1895.

THIS is preëminently an age of novel-writing and novel-reading. Prose fiction is the literary form in which the history and culture, the thought and life of the times are being crystallized, to which the best literary talent is being devoted, and which is attracting the widest interest. The systematic study of fiction is coming more and more into vogue. Under such circumstances, Professor Warren's history of the early novel is indeed a most timely book. The great novel-reading public will, of course, have little time and less taste for such

a scientific treatise, but students will welcome it and, for three special reasons, will find it of interest and value.

In the first place, it has to do with the beginnings of what has become the best product of modern literature, giving a careful and extended account of that early growth which, from the scientific standpoint, is so essential to an understanding of the character and tendencies of the modern novel. In the second place, it is a study in comparative literature and, as such, of great value for its comprehensive treatment. Again, it is almost the only book in its field. In English, Dunlop's *History of Fiction* is no longer up to date, and in French and German, scholars have never taken up the subject as a whole, but have contented themselves rather with monographs on some of its various phases. Other kinds of literature have been treated systematically and scientifically, but not until now have we had such a history of the novel.

Availing himself of the results of the most recent investigations, Professor Warren takes up the origin and growth, in classic and mediæval literatures, of the several classes of the novel, discussing for each the impulses that produced it, the elements that composed it, and the conditions that fostered its influence or, in turn, induced its decline.

At the outset the author very properly considers it necessary "to determine what a novel is, and how it differs from other kinds of fiction." After giving the origin and history of the terms in use, he distinguishes the novel from other types of fiction by assigning to it the essential characteristic of a well-defined plot. On this point there is general agreement, but many will not accept the statement that "there is, in fact, no difference in quality between the prose story and the novel. It is merely a difference in size, the novel being the larger." Though it is, in practice, often difficult to say whether a book is a story or a novel, there is, theoretically and strictly speaking, a difference in quality as well as in quantity. The genuine story has different themes, different objects in view, different methods, and a different kind of characters. On this point compare the generally accepted difference between the German *Novelle* and *Ro-*